**National Rain Fed Area Authority**

†2271. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to set up a National Rain Fed Area Authority to develop rainfed agricultural land in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of this proposal; and

(d) by when the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) It has been proposed to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority to provide much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic upgradation and management of Country's dry land and rainfed agriculture and to bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing programmes. The Authority is proposed to be a two tier structure with a Governing Board and an Executive Committee. The Authority will advise, guide and monitor the implementation of programmes covering all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas, including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches.

(c) and (d) As it involved consultation with may Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, it has taken some time. The matter is in the final stage now.

**NCF report**

†2272. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report from National Commission constituted for farmers under the Chairmanship of agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the views of the Commission regarding the plight of farmers and main recommendations of this Commission;

(c) the reasons for abandoning agriculture by farmers; and

(d) by when Government would take a decision on the recommendations of this Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Commission on Farmers has so far submitted four Reports to the Government.

(b) and (c) According to the Commission, the declining productivity and profitability in agriculture in the recent years are perceived to have contributed to the plight of farmers in some parts of the country.

Some of the main recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers pertain to soil health enhancement; water harvesting, water conservation and sustainable and equitable use of water; access to affordable credit and to crop and life insurance reform; development and dissemination of appropriate technologies; improved opportunities, infrastructure and regulations for marketing of produce; and the need to put in place appropriate Agricultural Biosecurity System.

(d) The recommendations of the Commission are presently under consideration of the Government.

**Establishing cotton research centres**

2273. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts being made by Government to encourage the cultivation of international level quality of cotton in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to establish Cotton Research Centres in various parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (A) The Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) and Centres of the All Indian Coordinated Cotton Improvement